

REMARKS

Claims 43-87 are pending in the application.

Claims 68-87 stand rejected.

Claims 43-67 are allowed.

Formal Matters

Applicants wish to warmly thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 43-67. Applicants also wish to respectfully note that the now-pending claims reflect claims 43-87, as presented in the Preliminary Amendment of March 3, 2005.

Double Patenting

Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claim 1 of copending Application No. 09/537,439. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in light of claim 1 having been cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment of March 3, 2005.

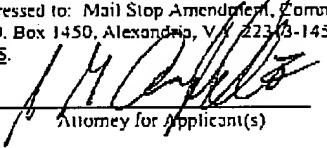
Claims 68-77 and 78-86 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 25-33 and 35, respectively of copending Application No. 09/537,439. Applicant respectfully notes that the limitations recited in claim 87 substantially parallel those of claim 68, and assume that this rejection applies equally to claim 87. To this end, a terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently with this response to overcome this rejection.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

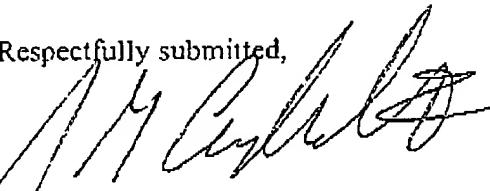
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Okabe, U.S. Patent No. 6,031,838. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in light of claim 1 having been cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment of March 3, 2005.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5084.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on <u>October 3, 2005.</u>	
	<u>10/03/05</u>
Attorney for Applicant(s)	Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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